

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 31 No. 1

January 15, 1963

Whole No. 364



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 40

GOLDEN HOURS

One of the most popular boys' story papers published at the turn of the century. Published by Norman L. Munro beginning January 28, 1888, and ending with No. 870 on October 1, 1904. 11x14½ inches with 16 pages with black and white pictorial covers; colored covers were used from 617 through No. 652. For full particulars and a complete listing of all stories with reprinting information see Bibliographic Listing No. 2 by Donald L. Steinhauer.

A DIME NOVEL COLLECTOR'S BOOK SHELF

by Edward T. LeBlanc

(continued from last issue)

VIRGIN LAND, The American West as Symbol and Myth, by Henry Nash Smith. 305p. Harvard University Press Cambridge, Mass., 1950. A well written history of the evolvement of the Western Hero and the part dime novels played in the process.

THE GREAT RASCAL, The Life and Adventures of Ned Buntline, by Jay Monaghan. 353p. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1951. A popular biography of Ned Buntline.

THE HOUSE OF BEADLE AND ADAMS, and Its Dime and Nickel Novels, by Albert Johannsen. 2 Vols, 476 and 441p. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla. 1950. The ultimate in the history of a dime novel publishing company. A must for all dime novel collectors. Complete lists of all stories published with reprinting information and brief synopsis. A well authenticated history of the Beadle firm. Volume III has been recently published.

IMPRINTS ON HISTORY, Book Publishers and American Frontiers, by Madeleine B. Stern. 492p. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Ind. 1956. Contains the history of selected publishers and printers from early America to the nineteenth century. Of interest to dime novel collectors are the histories of: James Redpath and his

"Books of the Times"; The Rise and Fall of A. K. Loring (Alger's first book publisher); G. W. Carleton; Eliott, Thomas & Talbot; The Leslies of Publishers' Row; Dick & Fitzgerald. Illustrated.

THE FICTION FACTORY, From Pulp Row to Quality Street, by Quentin Reynolds, 283p. Random House, New York, 1955. A History of Street & Smith. Well written, but a few errors have crept in but not to the extent to mar its value. Well illustrated in color.

BOYS WILL BE BOYS, The story of Sweeney Todd, Deadwood Dick, Sexton Blake, Billy Bunter, Dick Barton, et al. by E. S. Turner. 277p. Michael Joseph, London. A history of English "dime novels." Includes information on American dime novel characters who also "made it" in England. Two editions of this book have been issued, the first in 1948 and a revised edition in 1957.

A PLEA FOR OLD CAP COLLIER, by Irvin S. Cobb. 56p. George H. Doran Company, New York, 1921. An impassioned plea for the continuation of the dime novel heritage.

BUCKSKIN AND SATIN, The Life of Texas Jack (J. B. Omohundren), by Herschel C. Logan. 218p. The Stackpole Co., Harrisburg, Pa. 1954. A Bio-

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Edited by

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graphy of Texas Jack and his wife Mlle. Morlacchi. Featured are the illustrations of many Texas Jack dime novels.

THE CUP OF FURY, by Upton Sinclair. 190p. Channel Press, Inc., Great Neck, N. Y., 1956. "I compile a list of the drinking people I have known. Two score of them went to their doom, eleven as suicides. This is their story." In this book Mr. Sinclair for the first time mentions his early writings of dime novels for Street & Smith and quotes from the very first one, "Mark Mallory's Heroism."

ALL THE HAPPY ENDINGS. A study of the domestic novel in America, the women who wrote it, the women who read it, in the nineteenth century, by Helen Waite Papashvily. 231 p. Harper & Brothers, Pub., New York 1956. A history of women novelists including Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth, Mrs. Mary J. Holmes, Marion Harland and others. Many references made to the family story papers.

THE PAPERBOUND BOOK IN AMERICA, The History of Paperbacks and Their European Background, by Frank L. Schick, 262p. R. R. Bowker Co., New York, 1958. Mainly a history of today's pocket book trade but contains a chapter on nineteenth century paperbacks with good illustrations.

ALGER, A Biography without a Hero, by Herbert R. Mayes, 241p. Macy-Masius, Pubs. New York, 1928. A glossed over biography of Alger with apparently very little research done.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Expenses:

Publishing cost incl. postage	\$659.50
Photography & stationery	18.85
Total Expenses -----	\$678.35

Income:

Subscriptions	342.00
Advertising	133.17
Contributions	52.00
Sales, back issues	21.88
Total Income -----	549.05

Net Loss	\$129.30
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FROM ED LEITHEAD

One of our Dime Novel Roundup subscribers, Mr. William L. Clark, of Arlington, Virginia, sent me the following information on the pseudonyms W. Bert Foster used on the four hard-bound Street & Smith books I listed on page 101 of the November, 1962, Roundup:

"The Great Radio Mystery—a six-part serial in Detective Story Magazine, July 22-August 26, 1922, by Chester K. Steele.

"The House of Disappearances by Chester K. Steele, \$2.00. Source—Apr. 21, 1928 advertisement in Western Story Magazine.

"Island Ranch—a six-part serial in Western Story Magazine. June 3-July 8, 1922, by Thomas K. Holmes. Published as \$.75 book by Holmes—source July 7, 1928 Western Story Magazine advertisement.

"I am unable to locate The Crime in Red Towers but my index of Detective Story Magazine is very incomplete. I am assuming it came from there.

"There was another serial in Western Story Magazine by Thomas K. Holmes in case you are interested:—The Heart of Canyon Pass—July 16-August 20, 1921."

The Heart of Canyon Pass was later published in hard-bound edition by Dodd, Mead and Co., but I'm not sure whether under Foster's own name or the nom. "Thomas K. Holmes."

Back numbers Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup, Nos. 1 to 237 for sale. Some reprints, all interesting, 12 for \$1.00 or all 237 numbers for \$18.00 postpaid.

Ralph F. Cummings

161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.

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There was a net increase in membership of one. We are at least holding our own. Two members died during 1962, Albert Johannsen and Rev. Samuel C. Spaulding. 18 failed to renew their subscription, Alan E. Schaeffer, Herman Pitcher, Benjamin Tighe, Wilber Duer, Harvey Seefeldt, Howard B. Silsbee, William J. Malone, Herbert Prestwood, C. Solomon Wells, Star Book Service, Paul D. Garborino, Jerald A. Jackson, Hector J. Lemaire, Elsie Wittenberg, L. Harding, Norman J. Beckett, Anthony C. Kigas and Lucien C. Mammone. 21 new members were enrolled.

NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings

161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.

Mr. Joseph J. Myler of 333 Pelham St., Rochester, N. Y. has several hundred Beadles Dime Libraries for sale.

Mr. Fred Lee offers \$4.00 each for Liberty Boys of '76 Nos. 19, 28 and 46 in fine condition.

Stanley A. Pachon and Bill Burns write that Frank Algar, 75 York Rd., Ilford, Essex, England, died Sept. 23, 1960. Mr. Algar was always willing to put his vast knowledge of books and authors at your disposal, many times donating a great deal of his time in searching out for information which he furnished cheerfully. May his memory always remain green in the hearts of his friends.

Ralph F. Adimari suggests a question to the old timers. Who wrote the most novels, Edward S. Ellis, or St. George Rathborne. He has pinned them down as having written the most, each one reaching almost to 700, but who is the leading writer? Maybe some old timer has ideas.

Charlie Duprez says his friend Faber gave him a nice write up in one of the New York magazines on his Roosevelt photo, that he took with a camera back when Teddy Roosevelt was president. Those were the days.

The Wanderer, Vol. 1, No. 6, New York, Oct. 1867, black and white, was published by George G. Small, at 10c per copy. Title was, *Vir inia Herford*, by Geo. G. Small. Also had short stories, some comic pictures, etc.

Eli A. Messier is on the road back to health again, as he was one very sick boy last winter.

E. Marvin Smith also had a go at it, as he was sick as "old Nick"! The sick bug caught him for fair, but he admits it's nothing like what Eli had. Yes, Eli had it very bad, how well I know.

G. D. Nichols, who is 81 years old, has got me beat all to holler, as I am only 64½. Still I'm crawling along, just the same.

Bill Burns took a 580 mile trip, both ways, to the family reunion in Keene, N. H., around Aug. 16th, also over to Peacham, Vt., to visit a niece, and up to see a brother in Windsor, Vt. Bill's daughter June, and her husband drove Bill out there. He and his families have a reunion every year, at one or the other's place. I wonder how many other people do this. (I don't know of ever going to a reunion of our folks, that I know of. Ed.)

If we only could have Charles Duprez and wife up your way again this year, wouldn't it be wonderful.

Eli A. Messier has a lot of Jack

Harkaways—says he'll sell them cheap
Who is interested?

Just think, before James Wm. Martin of Sacramento, Calif., died, he had nice sets of Happy Days, Golden Wky., Boys of America, nearly a complete file of Boys of New York and long runs of Young Men of America, Golden Hours, and 25 or so Our Boys and other story papers, also several thousand dime novels. He also had a fine bound volume of The Boys of London and Boys of New York. Did they land at some junk shop, or what. No one seems to know. Jim had a lot of rare California papers too, also old Police Gazettes, and what not. So, brothers, don't let your collection go to junk shops, make sure when anything happens that our treasures will go on to make someone else happy, instead of going into a baler at a junk shop. So don't let it happen to you!

Not all the cigar store Indians that used to grace the fronts of the tobacco stores were Indians. At the height

of the popularity in the 19th century, the carved wooden figures included Cavaliers, ladies of fashion, sailors, baseball players, minstrel characters, and even clergymen.

Virtue always won in old time novels, such as Nick Carter, Sylvanus Cobb Jr., Col. Cody, Harry St. George, Horatio Alger, Jr., etc.

The old Mary J. Holmes house is at Brockport, N. Y., and the Edgar Allan Poe cottage is at Poe Park, Grand Concourse and 194th St., The Bronx, New York City. Home of Edgar Allan Poe from 1846 to 1849, almost the last years of his life; the little home where his beautiful wife, Virginia, died, and where he wrote the undying verses of "Anabel Lee."

Eli A. Messier sure had a fine write-up on his novel collection with illustrations of a nice bunch of novels on a table, while he himself is looking over a lot of old timers on shelves. It appeared in the Woonsocket Call for April 20, 1961.

FOR SALE

YOUNG ATHLETES' WEEKLY and FRANK MANLEY'S WEEKLY. Complete set (32 issues) of each, professionally bound, 2 volumes to each set. Each set, with all covers and in good condition \$25.00

NICK CARTER WEEKLY: 200 consecutive issues (400 to 599). A nice run of a scarce colored cover novel. Don't want to break the run \$200.00

FOREIGN NOVELS from France, Germany, England, etc., including a nice bunch of French Nick Carters. Also a number of Snaps, Pluck & Luck, etc.

WANTED

BEADLE'S POCKET LIBRARY. Will pay \$5.00 each for No. 44 and 47, or \$35.00 for Volume 4 of the set containing these numbers. Must be in good, clean, sound condition.

MEDAL LIBRARY (Not Merriwell Series) containing stories of the Merriwells and Owen Clancy. Good covers with nice insides essential.

TIP TOP LIBRARY (Weekly). Unbound. Will pay \$200.00 for the complete run 1 to 45, or proportionately for single issues. Must be in first class condition in every way, in original colored covers, not trimmed down, repaired or brittle. Will also pay \$1.50 each for certain numbers of small size Tip Tops in the "one tone" blue or red covers. Must be nice.

ADD SOME NOVELS TO YOUR FILES IN 1963

Work and Win. A long run, #733 to 832, all in good condition, mostly brand new and uncut, bright, clean copies. A beautiful run of 100 numbers, large size, \$50.00.

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The American Miscellany. 20 numbers in 1865. 50c each.

Fame and Fortune. 20 different, small size, \$5.00.

Detective Story Magazine containing complete Nick Carter novels.

Also Nick Carter Magazine. \$1.00 each.

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Secret Service. 10 between #950-1106, large size, \$7.50.

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Young Rover Library (Rover Boy). 4 different, \$5.00.

Diamond Dick, Jr., #592, 595, 597, new, uncut, \$4.50

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Happy Days. 10 different, \$3.50.

New York Ledger. 1860, complete 52 nos. Bound. Some numbers laid in. Average. \$8.00. Send \$1.00 for 5 diff. numbers.

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RALPH P. SMITH

Box 985

Lawrence, Mass.